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BOOK DEPARTMENT.

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REVIEWS.

Étude sur la Politique de l'Empereur Frédéric II. en Allemagne et sur les Transformations de la Constitution allemande dans la première moitié du XIIIe. Siècle. Par GEORGES BLONDEL. Pp. xlvii., 440. Paris : Picard et Fils. 1892.

The time has gone by when American students of history and political science must restrict themselves to German universities in their search for further knowledge and inspiration ; American scholars and teachers are beginning to acknowledge that France and Italy have claims to recognition as well as Germany and Austria. The strides made by France during the last twenty years in higher education are so enormous that she bids fair soon to outstrip her Eastern rival. It is a pleasure to call the attention of the readers of the ANNALS to one of the most brilliant of these younger scholars, M. Georges Blondel, doctor of law and of letters, and professor in the legal faculty of Lyons.

In the present work the author has made an exhaustive examination of the sources and of modern historians, and as a result presents in attractive and thorough manner a philosophical study of the transitional period which preceded the new era marked by the weakness of the central government. Only a brief sketch of the political history of the reign is given ; the main topics treated are the Royal Power, Feudalism, Relations with the Church, Condition and Treatment of the Cities, and Rural Classes.

This piece of work has been so well done that the carrying out of Professor Blondel's larger undertaking, in which this volume forms a part, will be awaited with eagerness and confidence ; he purposes to compare the constitutional history of France and of Germany, showing how and why these two countries, both sprung from the Carolingian Empire, have followed such different courses and developed such different institutions from origins so nearly identical. C. F. A. C.

Mass. Inst. of Technology.